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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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November 30, 2011

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

It is my understanding that your agency is currently conducting a Watershed Assessment for Bristol Bay, Alaska. The fishery located at Bristol Bay is one of the most valuable in the world. It has sustained native populations for generations and supported thriving commercial and sport fishing industries. Because of Bristol Bay's inherent value and importance to the Pacific Northwest region, I believe any decisions made regarding future development projects should be considered carefully and supported by sound scientific review.

As you know, the commercial fishing industry is an important economic driver in the state of Washington. Numerous Washingtonians make their livelihoods as commercial fisher-men and – women, and many of them rely on a healthy Bristol Bay. In fact, residents of my state held 827 commercial fishing permits for Bristol Bay in 2011. As you can imagine, many of those individuals are concerned about the sustainability of the fishery and how any prospective large scale mining operations could impact it.

Considering the importance of Bristol Bay to the people of my state and district, I will continue to follow this issue and would appreciate any updates your staff can provide as this process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my staff can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

D. Reichert

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

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